THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) The recommendations of the Report of the National Commission on Self-Employed Women and Women in the Informal Sector are under consideration of the Department in consultation with concerned Ministries/State Governments.

Revision of railway freight and fare structure

119. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL.
SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the recommendations of the National Transport Policy Committee (NTPC) for revision of the existing railway freight and fare structure;

(b) if so, whether any systematic approach has been made to rationalise the existing freight and fare structure in order to meet the requirements of NTPC's recommendations; and

(c) what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The National Transport Policy Committee (NTPC) made general observations on the pricing policy of the Railways and these have been kept in view while revising the fares and freight rates from time to time.

Import of centre buffer couplers and draft gears by the Railways

120. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway workshops and Railway engine/wagon factories are presently purchasing centre buffer couplers and draft gears from local manufacturers;

(b) whether there is any proposal to import these parts; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 5100 nos. of High Tensile Couplers and draft gears have been ordered, with provision for transfer of technology.

Testing of nuclear weapons by Pakistan in Chinese territory

121. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news report which appeared in the Statesman of 14th January, 1989, to the effect that Pakistan proposes to test its nuclear weapons in Chinese territory;

(b) what is the nature of the nuclear weapons proposed to be tested by Pakistan; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI): (a) to (c) Government are aware of Chinese assistance to Pakistan in the nuclear field but